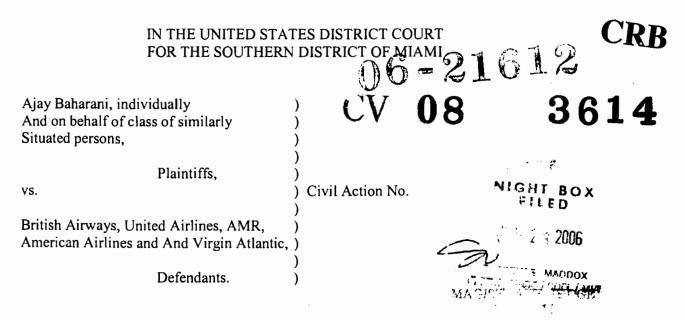
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#### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

The plaintiff Ajay Baharani complains against the defendants as follows:

### Introduction

1. This is a Section 1 Sherman Act antitrust class action brought against the defendants for an alleged price fixing conspiracy. The defendants have engaged in a horizontal conspiracy that concertedly set the amount of fuel surcharges imposed on passenger tickets for trans-Atlantic flights from the United States. Such alleged conduct is currently the subject matter of a grand jury investigation and a joint investigation of the United States Department of Justice and the British Office of Fair Trading.

#### Jurisdiction

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Section 15 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 15, for violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, and Section 4 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 15, Section 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 16 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337.



# Parties & Venue

- 3. The Plaintiff Ajay Baharani resides in the Southern District of Florida. In January of 2006, he traveled nonstop from the United States to London's Heathrow International Airport on a British Airways flight. During the class period, Mr. Baharani also traveled nonstop from the United States to London's Heathrow International on an American Airlines flight.
- 4. Defendant British Airways has its principal place of business in Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England. It has offices throughout the United States, including at 2360 N.W. 66<sup>th</sup> Street # 701, Miami, Florida, 33147.
- 5. Defendant AMR Corp. has its principal place of business at 4333 Amon Carter Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX 76155. It operates primarily in the airline industry through its principal subsidiary American Airlines, Inc.
- 6. Defendant American Airlines, Inc. has its principal place of business at 4333 Amon Carter Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX 76155. It has additional offices in several of its hubs throughout the United States, including 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida 33132.
- Defendant United Airlines Inc. has its principal place of business at 1200
   E. Algonquin Rd., Elk Grove Township, IL, 60007. United Airlines maintains an office at 3191, Coral Gables, Florida 33145.
- 8. The Defendant Virgin Atlantic has its headquarters at The Office, Manor Royal, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 9NU. Virgin Atlantic maintains an U.S. office at 747 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06850.

9. Venue as to Defendants (set forth below) is proper in the Southern District of Florida, under Sections 15(a) and 22 of the Sherman Act, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c), because one or more of the Defendants are found and transact business in the Southern District of Florida and/or the claims arose at least in part in the Southern District of Florida. Defendants regularly and continuously conduct business in interstate and foreign commerce between and among the several United States and foreign countries. The interstate trade and commerce described herein has been carried out, in part, within the Southern District of Florida.

# Class Action Allegations

- 10. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2), and 23(b)(3), on behalf itself and others similarly situated. The "Class" is defined as:
  - all purchasers of passenger tickets from Defendants and their co-conspirators (the "Class") for air travel from the United States to Europe, at any time from at least as far back as May 1, 2004 to the present (the "Class Period"), the exact date being unknown. Excluded from the Class are Defendants, any subsidiaries or affiliates of Defendants, and any of Defendants' co-conspirators, whether or not named as a Defendant in this Complaint.
- 11. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Due to the number of passengers traveling from the United States to Heathrow International during the class period and the geographic dispersion of such passengers, the Plaintiff believes that joinder of all Class members would be impracticable. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, Plaintiff believes that there are, at least, thousands of members of the Class and that their identities can be learned from Defendants' and their co-conspirators' books and records.

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- 12. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class. Plaintiff and all members of the Class purchased passenger tickets from the defendants at artificially maintained, non-competitive prices established by the actions of Defendants and their unnamed co-conspirators in connection with the restraint of trade alleged herein. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all sustained damage in that they paid inflated prices for the transportation services at issue due to Defendants' conduct in violation of federal law as complained of herein.
- 13. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and have retained counsel competent and experienced in class action and antitrust litigation.
- 14. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class which predominate over any questions affecting solely individual members of the Class.

  Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:
  - (a) Whether Defendants conspired, contracted or combined with others, for the purpose of and with the effect of raising, fixing, maintaining, pegging, or stabilizing the price of passenger tickets which were purchased by the Class;
  - (b) Whether Defendants undertook actions to conceal the unlawful conspiracies, contracts or combinations described herein and;
  - (c) Whether Defendants' conduct violated the relevant federal antitrust laws and caused injury to the business and property of Plaintiff and the Class and, if so, the proper measure of damages.

- efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all Class members is impracticable. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would impose heavy burdens upon the courts and Defendants, and would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications of the questions of law and fact common to the Class. A class action, on the other hand, would achieve substantial economies of time, effort and expense, and would assure uniformity of decision as to persons similarly situated without sacrificing procedural fairness or bringing about other undesirable results.
- 16. The interest of members of the Class in individually controlling the prosecution of separate actions is theoretical rather than practical. The Class has a high degree of cohesion, and prosecution of the action through representatives would be unobjectionable. The amounts at stake for Class members, while substantial in the aggregate, are not great enough individually to enable them to maintain separate suits against Defendants. Plaintiff does not anticipate any difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

#### Interstate Commerce & Trade

- 17. Defendant, British Airways, carried 3.9 million passengers from the United States to the United Kingdom/Europe in fiscal year 2005 between Heathrow Airport in London and 14 cities in the United States with an annual passenger revenue of £6.5 million.
- 18. Defendant, American Airlines, had an annual passenger revenue of \$20.7 billion in 2005 with approximately 35 percent of its passenger revenues derived from its

international operations. American Airlines carries passengers from Heathrow Airport in London to at least five U.S. cities.

- 19. Defendant, United Airlines, had an annual passenger revenue of over \$12 billion in 2005 with approximately 38 percent of its passenger revenues derived from its international operations. United Airlines carries passengers from 7 U.S. cities to Heathrow Airport in London.
- 20. Defendant, Virgin Atlantic, announced a pre-tax profit of £68 million for the twelve months ending February 28, 2005 and carried a total of 4.4 million passengers in 2004. Virgin Atlantic carries passengers from 6 U.S. cities to London's Heathrow Airport.

#### **Factual Allegations**

- 21. During the Class period, conspired, contracted or combined amongst themselves and with others, for the purpose of and with the effect of raising, fixing, pegging, maintaining or stabilizing the price of surcharges for passenger travel services purchased by the Class.
- 22. The defendants are the only airlines allowed under an agreement between the United States and the British governments to fly nonstop across the Atlantic to Heathrow. During the class period, the Plaintiff traveled non-stop on British Airways from the United States to Heathrow International. Upon information and belief, the price paid for this passenger ticket was above the competitive price that would have existed but for the alleged unlawful conspiracy to fixes prices for nonstop travel between the United States and Heathrow International.

- Office of Fair Trading acknowledged that they are investigating British Airways for allegedly colluding with the other defendants to fix ticket prices and fuel surcharges, particularly on flights between the United States and London's Heathrow International. In mid-June, 2006 the Office of Fair Trading raided British Airways offices as part of its investigation into price fixing of passenger fares. As a result of the investigation, British Airways placed two executives on Icaves of absence: Commercial Director George Martin and Head of Communications Iain Burns.
- 24. The defendant airlines charge passengers about £35 (approx. \$64) each way in fuel surcharges. The fuel surcharges have been routinely applied on passenger tickets as a separate line item since at least May of 2004. Since at least May 2004, the defendants have concertedly increased fuel surcharges on several occasions. Indeed, both British Airways and Virgin Atlantic introduced a fuel surcharge within a week of each other in May of 2004 for the same amount. In the same month, United and American announced an increase in its fuel surcharges.
- 25. In March of 2005, Virgin Atlantic increased its fuel surcharge from £10 to £16. The next day, British Airways also increased its fuel surcharge by the exact same amount.
- 26. In late March of 2006, Virgin Atlantic increased its fuel surcharge to £35 for trans-Atlantic flights which was shortly followed with an increase by British Airways to £35 in April 2006. United and American also increased fuel surcharges by corresponding dollar amount in April 2006 for increase in April of 2006 for trans-atlantic flights.

- 27. On June 9, 2006, United and American increased fuel surcharges by an additional \$10 to approximately \$75 dollars. Upon information and belief, shortly after this increase, United and American were served grand jury subpoenas investigating the alleged price fixing conspiracy. On June 22, 2006, United and American publicly acknowledged that they have been served subpoenas for information concerning pricing practices for trans-Atlantic flights.
- 28. Upon information and belief, the numerous increases in fuel surcharges during the class period resulted from unlawful coordination of pricing between and among the Defendants.

#### COUNT I

# VIOLATION OF SECTION 1 OF THE SHERMAN ACT AND § 4 OF THE CLAYTON ACT

- 29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations in the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 30. Defendants and the unnamed co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a contract, combination or conspiracy in unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act and Section 4 of the Clayton Act.
- 31. The contract, combination or conspiracy has resulted in an agreement, understanding or concerted action between and among Defendants and the co-conspirators in furtherance of which Defendants fixed, maintained, and standardized prices for trans-Atlantic passenger travel services. Such contract, combination, or conspiracy constitutes a *per se* violation of the federal antitrust laws and is, in any event, an unreasonable and unlawful restraint of trade.

- 32. Defendants' contract, combination, agreement, understanding or concerted action with the co-conspirators occurred in or affected interstate and international commerce. Defendants' unlawful conduct was through mutual understandings or agreements by, between and among Defendants and the co-conspirators. These other co-conspirators have either acted willingly or, due to coercion, unwillingly in furtherance of the unlawful restraint of trade alleged herein.
  - 33. The contract, combination or conspiracy has had the following effects:
- (a) Prices charged to Plaintiff and the Class for trans-Atlantic passenger air travel services were fixed or stabilized at higher, artificially derived, non-competitive levels:
- (b) Plaintiff and the Class have been deprived of the benefits of free, open and unrestricted competition in the market for trans-Atlantic passenger air travel services; and
- (c) competition in establishing the prices paid, customers of, and territories for transportation services of trans-Atlantic passenger air travel services has been unlawfully restrained, suppressed and eliminated.
- 34. As a proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in that they have paid supercompetitive prices for passenger air travel services.

#### Demand for Jury Trial

35. Pursuant to Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a jury trial as to all issues triable by a jury.

## Prayer for Relief

- 36. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:
- (1) That the Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and (b)(3), that Plaintiff be denominated as class representative and Plaintiff's counsel be appointed as counsel for the Class;
- (2) That the unlawful contract, combination and conspiracy alleged in Count I be adjudged and decreed to be an unreasonable restraint of trade or commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act;
- (3) That Plaintiff and the Class recover compensatory damages, as provided by law, determined to have been sustained as to each of them, and that judgment be entered against Defendants on behalf of Plaintiff and each and every member of the Class;
- (4) That Plaintiff and the Class recover treble damages, as provided by law;
- (5) That Plaintiff and the Class recover their costs of the suit, including attorney's fees, as provided by law; and
- (6) For such further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

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Dated: Miami, Florida June 23, 2006

de la O, Marko, Magolnick & Leyton 300 \( S.W., 3^rd \) Avenue Miami, Florida 33129 Phone: 305-285-2000 305-285-5555 Fax:

# OF COUNSEL:

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Fax: (205) 328-9669

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S 44 (Rev. 11/05)

# CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM)

NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below.

the civil docket sheet. (SEE IN	STRUCTIONS ON THE REVE	KSE OF THE FORM.)	NOTICE: Attorneys Mos	SI Indicate An Re-meu C.	ases Delow.	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS	(° 01	010	
Ajay Baharani, et al.			United Airlings,	United Airlines 6 - 21612		
(b) County of Residence (EX	of First Listed Plaintiff CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	SES)	County of Residence	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Ad	dress, and Telephone Number)			NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT		
Miguel M. de la O de la O, Marko, Magoinio 3001 Southwest 3rd Aver Miami FI 33129	Deal	TK 8	Attorneys (If Known)	Ela al Altinaga MOCT		
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly)	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
110 Insurance   120 Marine   130 Miller Act   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   196 Frauchise   REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   245 Tort Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY    310 Airplane     315 Airplane Product Liability     320 Assault, Libel & Slander     330 Federal Employers' Liability     340 Marine     345 Marine Product Liability     350 Motor Vehicle     355 Motor Vehicle     Product Liability     360 Other Personal Injury     CIVIL RIGHTS     441 Voting     442 Employment     443 Housing/ Accommodations     444 Welfare     445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment     446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other     0 440 Other Civil Rights	PERSONAL INJUR  362 Personal Injury Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury Product Liability Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lendin 380 Other Fraud Property Damage Property Damage 585 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIO 510 Motions to Vaca Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Ott 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	Y   0 610 Agriculture   620 Other Food & Drug   625 Drug Related Seizure   630 Liquor Laws   630 Liquor Laws   640 R.R. & Truck   650 Airline Regs.   660 Occupational   Safety/Health   690 Other   10 Fair Labor/Mgmt. Relations   710 Fair Labor/Mgmt. Relations   720 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act   740 Railway Labor Act   740 Railway Labor Act   790 Other Labor Litigation   791 Empl. Ret. Inc.   Security Act   650 Other   791 Empl. Ret. Inc.   Security Act   650 Other   650	422 Appeal 28 USC 158     423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157     PROPERTY RIGHTS     820 Copyrights     830 Patent     840 Trademark     861 Black Lung (921)     863 DlWC/DlWW (405(g))     864 SSID TLS AWITS     870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)     871 IRS —Third Parly 26 USC 7609	400 State Reapportionment   410 Antitrust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Consumerce   460 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   470 Capta   470 Capta	
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VI. RELATED/RE-FIL CASE(S).	second page):	a) Re-filed Case D JUDGE	, ,	DOCKET NUMBER		
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and Write a Brief Statement of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants have engaged in an unlawful price fixing conspiracy in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act. 15 U.S.C. Section 1 (Sherman Act)  LENGTH OF TRIAL via days estimated (for both sides to try entire case)						
VIII. REQUESTED IN O CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMANDS  COMPLAINT: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23  CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  JURY DEMAND: TO No						
ABOVE INFORMATION IS THE BEST OF MY KNOWL		SIGNATURE OF A	TORNEY OF RECORD		ve	
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06/26/06

**CLOSED** 

3614

# **U.S. District Court** Southern District of Florida (Miami) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #:\_1\067cv-21612.CMA

Baharani v. British Airways, et al Assigned to: Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga

Demand: \$0

Cause: 15:0015 Antitrust Litigation

Date Filed: 06/23/2006

Date Terminated: 07/19/2006

Jury Demand: Plaintiff

Nature of Suit: 410 Anti-Trust Jurisdiction: Federal Question

#### **Plaintiff**

Ajay Baharani

# represented by Joe R. Whatley, Jr.

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Email: jwhatley@whatleydrake.com LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

# Miguel Manuel de la O

3001 SW 3rd Avenue Miami, FL 33129 305-285-2000 Fax: 285-5555 Email: delao@dmmllaw.com LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

#### Richard P. Rouco

Whatley Drake 2323 2nd Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203-2605 205-328-9576 Fax: 328-9669 LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

**Defendant** 

**British Airways** 

**Defendant** 

United Airlines, Inc.

**Defendant** 

AMR Corp.

**Defendant** 

American Airlines, Inc.

**Defendant** 

Virgin Atlantic

Date Filed	e Filed # Docket Text		
06/23/2006	1	COMPLAINT filed; FILING FEE \$350.00 RECEIPT # 942553; Magistrate Judge Turnoff (dg, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 06/27/2006)	
06/23/2006	2	SUMMONS(ES) issued for British Airways (dg, Deputy Clerk) (Entered 06/27/2006)	
06/23/2006	3	SUMMONS(ES) issued for United Airlines (dg, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 06/27/2006)	
06/23/2006	4	SUMMONS(ES) issued for American Airlines (dg, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 06/27/2006)	
06/23/2006	<u>5</u>	SUMMONS(ES) issued for Virgin Atlantic (dg, Deputy Clerk) (Entered 06/27/2006)	
06/23/2006	<u>6</u>	MOTION AND ORDER Appointing Special Process Server. Appointee: Yanes Security & Investigative Services (dg, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 06/27/2006)	
07/12/2006	7	RETURN OF SERVICE executed for United Airlines on 6/3/06 Answerdue on 6/23/06 for United Airlines (ct, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 07/13/2006)	
07/12/2006	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE executed for British Airways on 6/28/06 Answer due on 7/18/06 for British Airways (ct, Deputy Clerk) (Entered 07/13/2006)	
07/12/2006	9	RETURN OF SERVICE executed for Virgin Atlantic on 6/28/06 Andue on 7/18/06 for Virgin Atlantic (ct, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 07/13/2006)	
07/12/2006	10	RETURN OF SERVICE executed for American Airlines on 6/28/06 Answer due on 7/18/06 for American Airlines (ct, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 07/13/2006)	
07/18/2006	<u>11</u>	MOTION by Ajay Baharani for Richard P. Rouco to appear pro hac vice \$75 fee paid (mh, Deputy Clerk) (Entered: 07/19/2006)	

PACER Service Center								
Transaction Receipt								
07/28/2008 18:16:52								
PACER Login:		Client Code:						
Description:	Docket Report	Search Criteria:	1:06-cv-21612-CMA					
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